GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4245
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Mega Food Parks
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Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the objectives and selection process of Mega Food Parks (MFPs) including the yardsticks adopted for the relation of types and location thereof;

(b) whether many of the MFPs are still not operational in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the pro-active steps taken to make all of them operational;

(c) the details of works being carried out by the MFPs and the extent to which the success and objectives have been achieved thereunder along with the efforts made in this regard during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
(d) whether the Government has received any complaints from several States regarding the quality of processing of food items; and
(e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

(a). The primary objective of setting up of Mega Food Parks (MFPs) is to provide modern infrastructure facilities for the food processing along the value chain from the farm to the market in the country. The Mega Food Park Scheme is demand driven and not location specific. Selection of the Mega Food Park project is done from the proposals received against EoI, based on a three tier appraisal according to prefixed criteria laid down in the Scheme Guidelines as given at Annexure-I:

(b). A total of 42 Mega Food Parks have been approved by the Government to be set up to create modern infrastructure facilities for food processing sector in the country. Out of 42 approved Mega Food Parks, 3 Mega Food Park projects have been completed and another 5 Mega Food Park projects have been made operational. The project-wise details of implementation of 42 Mega Food Parks is at Annexure-II.

As per the Mega Food Park scheme guidelines, the stipulated timeline for completion of project is 30 months. However, there have been delays in implementation of mega food parks approved in various parts of the country for the reasons given below:

(i). Delay in acquiring 50 acre contiguous land with Change of Land Use (CLU).
(ii). Delay in Permission for sub-leasing of plots required in case of Government/leased land.

(iii). Difficulty in getting term loan from Banks / Financial Institutions.

(iv). Delay in getting statutory clearances (environmental, town and country planning, ground water, electricity, etc.) from the concerned State Government.

(v). Non availability of any special incentives for setting up food processing units in Mega Food Parks.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries has taken several steps to make the projects operational in time as under:

(i). Issues have been taken up with State Governments to expedite statutory clearances and to remove the bottlenecks.

(ii). State Governments and Ministry of Finance requested to provide fiscal incentives to the Mega Food Park projects.

(iii). Issues have been taken up with the Banks/ FIs to expedite sanction of term loan to the projects.

(iv). State Governments have been involved in selection and monitoring of the projects.

(v). District Level Coordination Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate (DM) to resolve local issues.

(vi). Release of installments of grant has been linked to allotment of plots to the processing units.

(vii). Provision of penalty has been made in the scheme guidelines for delay in meeting the timeline for claiming grant installments.

(viii). Regular monitoring of the projects is being done at various levels.

(c). The Mega Food Parks are providing modern infrastructure facilities for the food processing along the value chain from the farm to the market including transportation, logistics and centralized processing centres. During the last three years and the current year, six

Mega Food Parks have become operational in the State of Karnataka, Punjab, Assam, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. Each Mega Food Parks, on being fully completed and occupied by the food processing units, envisages a collective investment of around Rs. 250 crore in about 25-30 units leading to an annual turnover of about Rs. 450-500 crore creating direct and indirect employment of about 5,000 persons and benefitting about 25,000 farmers.

(d) & (e). Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the Nodal Agency for the regulating and enforcing Food Safety and Quality Standards through State / UT Governments. As per the information made available by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the statement indicating the State / UT wise details of food samples received, analysed, found non-conforming and action taken during the year 2015-16 is at Annexure-III.